

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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R 211956Z MAR 74
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LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, APER, UN

SUBJC: UN PERSONNEL: STATUS OF US CANDIDATES FOR UNIDO AND
UN OFFICE GENEVA

REFS: (A) USUN 429 (B) USUN 604 (C) USUN 610 (D) USUN 770
(E) USUN 372 (F) STATE 44537
(G) GENEVA 1605 (H) VIENNA 2226
(I) GENEVA 1691 (J) VIENNA 2392

SUMMARY: AT USUN REQUEST MISOFFS MET WITH USYG GEORGE DAVIDSON
MAR 19 TO OBTAIN INFO ON STATUS OF US CANDIDATES. CANDIDATURE OF
AMB FINDLEY BURNS MOVING SLOWLY DUE TO RESISTANCE BY UNIDO EXEC
DIR ABDEL-RAHMAN (A-R). NAT GROBY FOR UN OFFICE GENEVA UNLIKELY
TO MATERIALIZE. WE PLAN TO RAISE WITH SYG IN NEAR FUTURE
QUESTION OF BURNS' APPOINTMENT.

1. RE BURNS'S CANDIDACY FOR UNIDO DIR OF ADM, CONF, AND GEN
SERVICES, DAVIDSON SAID THAT HE WAS PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY DUE TO
STRONG OPPOSITION FROM A-R AND DESIRE OF BOTH SYG AND DAVIDSON TO
"CONVINCE" A-R OF NECESSITY OF ACCEPTING BURNS. DAVIDSON IMPLIED
THAT, UNLESS A-R GOT HIS WAY OR COULD BE CONVINCED TO ACCEPT BURNS,
A-R WAS THREATENING TO RESIGN. ACTING ON SYG'S INSTRUCTIONS, DAVIDSON
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HAD DISCUSSED MATTER BY PHONE WITH A-R ON THREE OCCASIONS BUT TO NO

AVAIL. IN HOPE OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION, DAVIDSON SAID SYG PLANNED TO MEET WITH A-R AT ACC MET IN PARIS IN MID-APR. A-R'S CONTRACT, WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE END OF 1974, MAY NOT BE RENEWED BY SYG ACCORDING

TO DAVIDSON. APPARENTLY AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY, A-R MIGHT BE USING BURNS' APPOINTMENT AS PRETEXT FOR RALLYING SUPPORT OF LDCS BEHIND HIS OWN EXTENSION AS WELL AS TO CHALLENGE SYG RE PLACE OF UNIDO WITHIN UN ORGANIZATION. NEVERTHELESS, DAVIDSON SAID HE PLANS TO PROCEED WITH BURNS' APPOINTMENT, WITH FIRST STEP BEING TO HAVE BURNS SHORTLY COME TO NEW YORK FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH DAVIDSON AND OTHERS. AFTER INTERVIEW, DAVIDSON WOULD INFORM SYG OF BURNS' QUALIFICATIONS; FACT THAT BURNS HAS NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED TO DATE IS ONE ARGUMENT BEING USED BY A-R TO DELAY ACTION ON BURNS' APPOINTMENT.

2. DAVIDSON SAID THAT MATTER WAS NOW IN HANDS OF SYG, WHO WOULD HAVE TO EITHER CONVINCE A-R TO MAKE BURNS' APPOINTMENT OR ELSE ACT ON HIS OWN AND MOVE FORWARD BURNS' CANDIDATURE FOR UNIDO POST WITHOUT A-R ENDORSEMENT. GIVEN THIS FACT AND IN ORDER TO REAFFIRM USG POSITION PRIOR TO SYG MTG WITH A-R IN PARIS, AMBS SCALI OR BENNETT WILL RAISE QUESTION WITH SYG ONCE AGAIN WITHOUT DELAY.

3. WHEN DISCUSSING OBSTINACY OF A-R RE BURNS' APPOINTMENT AS WELL AS GREATER AUTONOMY FOR UNIDO, DAVIDSON SAID HE HAD LEARNED OF AND LOOKED INTO NOMINEE OF LA GROUP FOR EXEC DIR POST, JORGE FERNANDINI (PERU). BASED ON INFO HE OBTAINED, DAVIDSON SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT FERNANDINI WAS "TOTALLY UNSUITABLE" TO REPLACE A-R. HE ADDED THAT SYG HAD APPEALED THROUGH PERUVIAN UN PERM REP FOR LATINS TO SUBMIT ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE(S) WHO WOULD BE MORE QUALIFIED AND CAPABLE OF PUTTING UNIDO HOUSE IN ORDER.

4. MISOFF THEN QUESTIONED DAVIDSON ON WHY NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON REPLACEMENT OF STEPANEK (DIR, INDUSTRIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS DIV IN UNIDO) BY ANOTHER AMERICAN. DAVIDSON PROMISED TO MAKE IMMEDIATE INQUIRIES ON WHAT WAS HOLDING UP SELECTION BY A-R OF ONE OF SIX AMERICANS WHOSE NAMES PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY US FOR THIS POST. MISOFF WAS ASSURED BY DAVIDSON THAT A PLACEMENT OF ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR CANDIDATES IN THIS VACANCY WAS FIRM.

5. MISOFF THEN PRESSED DAVIDSON FOR APPOINTMENT OF NAT GROBY (D-1 IN UNCTAD) TO REPLACE KIRKBRIDE IN GENEVA OFFICE AS DIR OF ADM AND FIN SERVICES. DAVIDSON SAID HE WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO GROBY'S APPOINTMENT AND REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR A PROMOTION/TRANSFER OF BARBOSA (BRAZIL) FROM UNIDO TO GENEVA OFFICE. ACCORDING TO DAVIDSON, WHO HAD DISCUSSED VACANCY

AND GROBY WITH WINSPEARE BY PHONE, LATTER AGREED WITH DAVIDSON THAT BARBOSA SHOULD BE SELECTED OVER GROBY. THEIR DECISION WAS BASED ON FACT THAT GROBY WAS NEAR RETIREMENT (AGE OF 59); BARBOSA WAS DESERVING OF CONSIDERATION SINCE HE WOULD NOT GET UNIDO PROMOTION; AND DUE TO NEW SYG AND OTHER CHANGES IN TOP STRUCTURE OF UNCTAD. GROBY WAS NEEDED IN HIS PRESENT POST TO ASSIST IN CHANGE IN COMMAND. MISOFF MADE COUNTER ARGUMENTS, DRAWING ON REFTELS, WHICH WERE REJECTED BY DAVIDSON. LATTER ALSO SAID THAT ASYG KITTANI HAD DENIED MAKING ANY COMMITMENT THAT US SHOULD BE GIVEN ANOTHER D-2 POST (IN GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE) FOR AMERICAN TO COMPENSATE FOR LOSS OF OTC POST TO NON-AMERICAN AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

6. MISOFF REMINDED DAVIDSON THAT DURING PREVIOUS DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT DAVIDSON HAD SAID WE SHOULD CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO POST OF DIR, AD AND FIN SERVICES, IN GENEVA. MISOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ASK DAVIDSON FOR HIS REACTION TO US OPTING FOR POST OF DEPUTY TO WINSPEARE IN GENEVA OFFICE, WHICH NOW OCCUPIED BY PAUL COIDAN (FRANCE). IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM MISOFF, DAVIDSON AGREED THAT THIS POST SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS BELONGING TO FRENCH AND THAT US WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF PLACING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICAN IN IT EITHER FROM WITHIN OR OUTSIDE UN SYSTEM. DAVIDSON WAS CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT BUT ASSURED MISOFF THAT HE WOULD BEAR IN MIND US INTEREST IN SELECTING REPLACEMENT FOR COIDAN IF WE OPTED FOR THIS ALTERNATIVE.

COMMENT: FIRST, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, WE INTEND TO KEEP PRESSURE ON SYG IN ORDER TO SECURE BURNS' APPOINTMENT. WHILE SAILING MAY BE DIFFICULT, WE INTEND THAT SYG DELIVER BURNS' APPOINTMENT AS PROMISED. SECOND, GIVEN APPARENT FACT THAT BOTH WINSPEARE AND DAVIDSON FAVOR BARBOSA OVER GROBY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASED ON ARGUMENTS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO REFUTE, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO BARBOSA'S APPOINTMENT. THIRD, USG SHOULD MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY TO IDENTIFY STRONG CANDIDATES FOR SUBMISSION TO UN AT EARLY DATE FOR POST OCCUPIED BY COIDAN AS WINSPEARE'S DEPUTY, EVEN THOUGH APPARENTLY FRANCE BELIEVE THEY HAVE LOCK ON THIS POST. OUR SUCCESS IS LIKELY TO BE DEPENDENT UPON QUALITY OF OUR CANDIDATES, OTHER POSTS OCCUPIED BY AMERICANS IN GENEVA, AND DEGREE TO WHICH WE WANT TO EXERT PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY IN FACE OF FRANCE WHO ARE LIKELY ALSO TO PUT FORWARD CANDIDATES. BENNETT

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